

Specific Crime Information

Motor Vehicle Theft

As you are aware, motor vehicle theft numbers were quite low at times this past year. Looking at a five year average, we are in the lower than expected range every month until December. It appears when looking at the data that this trend really started about July of 2014 so the initial drop had nothing to do with PredPol. It is a possibility that PredPol helped to keep them down once we began the program, but it would be impossible to make that determination. Other agencies surrounding Puyallup have experienced some drop in motor vehicle theft counts as well. December 2015 and January 2016 have had high counts for motor vehicle theft once again.

Theft from Vehicle

We have not experienced the same drop in vehicle prowling incidents that we have in motor vehicle theft. When examining a five year average, we find that 2014 was somewhat close to average until the end of the year when they started to move up. 2015 saw an above average number of prowls, but not the highest we have experienced in five years. The threshold analysis graph attached gives you a good picture proving that while we are on the high side of vehicle prowling counts, it is not the worst it has been over the past five years.

Residential Burglary

Residential Burglary counts have been in the lower than expected category since the inception of the PredPol program in all but one month (August). Last year was a difficult year for residential burglary in Puyallup, so this is a welcome change.

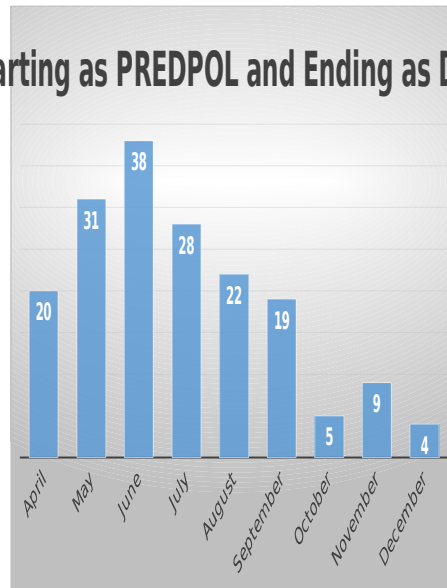
Non Residential Burglary

Non Residential Burglary numbers vary quite a bit month to month. The counts began to rise in mid-2014 and have continued to be fairly high 2015, with the exception of June. This past December quite high when compared to the five year average.

Other Data of Interest:

PredPol => Different call type – A good indicator of PredPol's success, both as far as the quality of the program is concerned and concerning how officers are performing their duties while on a PredPol call, is how many times a PredPol call turns in to a different call type. For example, it culminates in a subject stop, a citizen contact or an actual crime being discovered. This occurred 176 times since the beginning of the program. However, the occurrence of it has dropped significantly since we switched to the new CAD system. This should probably be examined to figure out why the change occurred with the new CAD system. It could be that the officers were extremely bogged down with learning a new system and had a lot less time for proactive work, or it could be an error in the way the calls are being recorded in CAD now. Are all the dispatchers still leaving the initial call type as PREDPOL and only switching the final call type? Or are they closing the PREDPOL and creating a new CFS? This was handled with dispatch before the switch-over to the new CAD, but we may have different people doing things different ways now.

Count of CFS Starting as PREDPOL and Ending as Different Call Type



Supporting Attachments:

Threshold Analysis Chart of 5 years of data

This document looks at five years of data for Motor Vehicle Theft, Theft from Vehicle, Residential and Non-Residential Burglary.

Threshold Analysis Explanation Sheet

Count by Month Chart – 6 months over 5 years for both vehicle crimes

This document looks at the count of motor vehicle thefts and thefts from vehicle over the *six months of the pilot program* for the last five years. I have included a trend line and it does show that motor vehicle theft is on a downward trend. If you would like to see this document for burglaries, please let me know.

Crime Count vs. PredPol Emphasis Chart

This document was created in December of 2015 so it is from January 2015 until the end of November 2015. It may or may not be of interest to you. I queried the Records Management System for actual crimes reported to the police department during those months and placed those counts on a chart with the count of PredPol calls for service performed. Again, I would note that the PredPol count was down quite significantly for the month of October, and I would surmise this is likely due to the CAD changeover. It appears the officers have picked back up, however.

Three PredPol Crimes Chart – April 1 – September 30 – Five year counts

This chart simply looks at the six month counts (the initial PredPol test phase) for the crimes on which we focused. For this particular document, I combined both burglaries into one category. It does show that all three crime categories were on a downward trend during the PredPol test phase.

Final Thoughts:

Finally, PredPol works best if officers can perform a “box check” once every two hours of their shift. Puyallup has encouraged officers to average at least four per shift. Most officers are NOT finding the time to accomplish an average of even four PredPol activity calls per shift. In May, June and July only four officers averaged four per shift. In August, five averaged four per shift, and in September, six averaged four per shift. The program is obviously not as proficient if it is not used in the way instructed by its creators.

Another issue I have heard with PredPol activity is that officers sometimes feel as though they need to cram them all in during their slow times. This also is not the best use of the program since it really works best when the PredPol activity is spread throughout the shift.

A couple of weeks ago I requested any statistical information that could be provided by PredPol themselves for our agency. While they have asked for some data from me (which has been provided to the extent I am able), they have not yet returned anything to me. They have some statistical comparisons using the time spent on PredPol calls compared with crime counts. I am interested to see this data, but am unsure how reliable it will be with our CAD cutover in the mix. As I worked on this report, I was more and more convinced that there is a disconnect in the way PredPol calls are being tracked with dispatch. When I viewed time spent on PredPol calls, I found 38% of them show 16 minutes or more spent on the call. There were 80 calls that show more than an hour. This is a clear signal that something is wrong in the way the calls are being tracked in CAD. Until/unless this issue is fixed, we will continue to have a difficult time determining the success of the program.

If you have any further questions of me, I would be happy to provide whatever you need. I have quite a lot of data on PredPol and the crimes on which we are focusing, so there is a chance it would be quick for me to locate what you need. Please let me know if you have questions about the data I have provided.